

**Amendments in the claims:**

1. (currently amended) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein ~~(i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunits, or (ii) the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits, and wherein said basic subunits comprise are selected from the group consisting of vinylimidazole, benzothiazoles, quinolines, ethyleneimines, vinylpyridine, allylamine, and mixtures thereof.~~

2. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid groups.

3. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 2 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone or sulfonated polyetherether sulfone.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 4 wherein said second polymer comprises polyvinylimidazole.

6. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises a semi-interpenetrating network in said membrane.

7. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises polyacrylonitrile.

8. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric copolymer comprises an elastomeric subunit comprising acrylonitrile.

9. (currently amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone, and wherein ~~said basic subunits comprise vinylimidazole and~~ said elastomeric subunits comprise acrylonitrile.

10. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said second polymer comprises polyvinylimidazole and wherein said acidic subunits comprise 2-acrylonamide-2-methyl-1 propane sulfonic acid and said elastomeric subunits comprise acrylonitrile.

11. (currently amended) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein ~~(i) at least~~

~~one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunits, or (ii) the polymer~~  
electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits, wherein said membrane has an electrical conductivity greater than about 0.005 S/cm.

12. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said membrane is substantially impermeable to methanol.

13-34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein ~~(i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunits, or (ii) the polymer~~  
electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits,

wherein said acidic subunits are selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid groups, ~~phosphoric acid groups and mixtures thereof,~~

wherein said elastomeric subunits are selected from the group consisting of nitrile groups, ~~vinylidene fluoride groups, siloxane groups, phosphazine groups, and mixtures thereof.~~

## **1) Change of docket number**

This application has recently been transferred to our firm. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the docket number for this case be changed to SRI-107/US in the Office database.

## **2) Detailed action: Election/restriction**

A restriction requirement is imposed between the following species:

(I) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunits

(II) the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits.

Furthermore, selection of a further subgroup from the lists presented in claims 1 and 35 is required.

Species II is elected. Claims 1, 11, and 35 are currently amended accordingly. Thus claims 1-3, 5-12, and 35 (i.e., all claims currently presented) read on species II. Furthermore, claim 1 is currently amended to recite a single basic subunit as required. Claim 35 is currently amended to recite a single acidic subunit in combination with a single elastomeric subunit, also as required.